

Draft Preferred Alternatives Governor Thompson State Park

Entrance Governor Thompson State Park will have a single entrance from the south off of Ranch Road. The actual entrance road alignment will be changed from the existing road to avoid paralleling the nearby high voltage line and provide more visual interest.

Boundary Additional land will be acquired from willing sellers if needed to protect an important resource, improve use area or facility development, buffer incompatible uses, provide access control or clearer boundary lines, or for other compelling reasons. A park boundary showing modest boundary expansion will be delineated in the proposed master plan draft.

Vegetation Management The vegetation will be managed to provide an appropriate balance among existing timber types, with some areas of pine barrens/oak barrens restored for educational purposes. Special emphasis will be placed on maximizing the health and vigor of the red oak stands growing on sandy soils to protect against pests like the gypsy moth and forest tent caterpillar. The Department has a policy of Managing to promote Big Tree Silviculture where the sites are capable of growing large, long-lived trees. Managing for White Pine as an associated species with the Oak is an alternative that can be encouraged through natural regeneration and periodic improvement thinnings. White Pine was a component of the forest that was removed during the logging era in this area. Management for public health and safety and the accommodation of recreational development will also occur.

Recreation Facilities and Development The recreational facilities will include some modern conveniences, but the appearance of park structures and facilities will tend toward an informal "Northwoods" style. Proposed development may include, but is not limited to:

Road System

Utilities

Administrative Headquarters for the park

Public Toilets

Shop/Storage Building

Systems of single-use and multi-use State Park trails. Hiking, xc-skiing, horseback riding, off-road bicycling, and snowshoeing, are examples.

A paved bike path

Relocation of Ranch Road snowmobile trail on state property (See note below.)

Camping of several types:

Rustic hike-in/water access campsites

Rustic outdoor group

Horse-and-rider camp (See note below.)

Traditional tent/trailer family-campground with flush toilets and showers

Rustic indoor group camp

Improved Boat access to Caldron Falls Reservoir within the park

Interpretive Center

Day Use Areas such as picnic facilities, play areas...

Non motorized water access to the inland lakes

Manage the deer herd on the property when necessary, by controlled hunting methods.

Note: Snowmobile Trail Relocation

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to working with local snowmobile organizations, to delineate a pass-through snowmobile route that will eliminate the use of Ranch Road as a snowmobile route. The specific alignment of such a trail will be determined on site by DNR staff and must be located to prevent conflicts with other winter uses. When a pass-through route is designated a land use agreement will be negotiated between the DNR and the organization responsible for the trail. Upon relocation of the trail from Ranch Road it is expected that use of the road right-of-way (Ranch Road) as a snowmobile route will cease.

(Definition: A *pass-through trail* provides passage through a property via a route that creates the least amount of disruption, the least amount of environmental impact, and causes the least possible amount of user conflict.

Note: Horse Trails and Camping

The Department of Natural Resources will work with members of the horseback riding public to designate a bridle trail on park property. In recognition of the adjacent Peshtigo River State Forest lands, the Department will defer designation of a Horse-and-Rider Camp location until the Peshtigo River State Forest Master Plan is closer to completion. This will assure the best location is chosen.